

Final Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee April 22, 2009

Attending

George Caan	John Swett	Laura Vecerina
Bill Werner	Dana Medlock	Chuck Cullom
Terri Sue Rossi	Wade Noble	Charles Paradzick
Chris Hayes	Ed Smith	Larry Purcell
Laura Simonek	Sara Price	Jon Sjoberg
Holly Cheong	Eileen Wynkoop	Jack Stonehocker
Bill Lamb	Fred Worthley	Greg Lowther
Chelsea Stemmer	Linda Carbone	Theresa Olson
Tom Burke	Buster Johnson	Bill Davis
Jason Thiriot	Craig Elliott	

Attending Via Conference Call

Lesley Fitzpatrick	Kerry Christensen	Maureen George
Conrad Jones	Chris Harris	Doyle Wilson
Doug Fant	David Weedman	

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:35 a.m. by Chairperson George Caan.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve October 22, 2008 Meeting Notes

The October 22, 2008 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

George Caan announced that he and Bill Werner were willing to serve an additional term as Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee and then opened up the topic for discussion.

Ed Smith made a motion to re-elect George and Bill. The motion was seconded by Bill Lamb. Hearing no opposition, the motion was approved.

2. WORK PLANS AND BUDGET (see also slide presentations)

FY2008 Accomplishments

John Swett stated the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2010 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2008 Accomplishment Report has been posted on the web. He noted that the approved FY08 accomplishment was \$14,947,500 and the actual accomplishment was \$15,797,675. The reason actual accomplishment was higher than was approved was due to the acquisition of additional water from the Hopi for the Cibola Valley Conservation Area. He noted that the Steering Committee had approved this transaction at the April 25, 2007 Steering Committee meeting.

John explained that both The Metropolitan Water District and San Diego County Water Authority were receiving funding credits in FY08. These additional funds were used to complete SIA commitments, which were all completed in FY08.

Tom Burke showed a Power Point presentation on the 2008 fishery program highlights and status of razorback sucker and bonytail downstream of Grand Canyon. A question was asked if all the fish were tagged. Tom stated that all the fish were tagged in some way.

John Swett introduced Theresa Olson as the new LCR MSCP Wildlife Group Manager. Theresa gave a Power Point presentation on the monitoring and research program. A question was asked where we are at as far as genetics on rats. Theresa stated that it is currently being done. The rats are found in both woodland and marsh areas.

John Swett discussed the Conservation Area Development and Management FY08 accomplishments.

FY2009 Program and Financial Status

Laura Vecerina discussed the LCR-MSCP Fiscal Year 2009 Status of Payments. She noted that all required contributions through the third quarter had been received. She also provided LCR MSCP obligations by work task through March 2009 noting that over half of the approved funding for FY09 has been obligated.

Laura requested the Steering Committee approve \$50,000 for Work Task E21, Planet Ranch, Bill Williams River in FY09. These funds would be used for the negotiations and development of a transition plan for the property. (Moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Chuck Cullom.)

SNWA In-Kind Credit

Laura introduced a revised Draft Resolution 09-001, In-Kind Credit SNWA. The revised resolution provided additional background information incorporating previous Steering Committee Motions and Program Decision Documents for the Big Bend Conservation Area. It was suggested that the last paragraph be revised as follows:

“Resolved that the Steering Committee approves an in-kind credit for land in the amount of \$872,000 **in lieu of payment** for SNWA in FY10 and the Steering Committee approves SNWA using 50% of their credit in FY10 and 50% of their credit in FY11 to offset their yearly financial contribution.”

(Moved by Bill Werner, seconded by Chuck Cullom.)

FY10 Contribution Schedule

Laura provided the preliminary numbers for the FY10 financial contribution schedule. She noted that the preliminary inflation factor of 1.295 was slightly higher than in previous years.

American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

John Swett discussed the ARRA handout. He stated that ARRA is also known as the stimulus package. LCR MSCP will be getting \$2.5 million in recovery funding. These funds must be spent by September 30, 2011.

Draft FY2010 Work Plan and Budget

John Swett gave a Power Point presentation on the FY2010 Work Plan and Budget which showed the FY2010 funding requirements, proposed work plans, and new project highlights. He noted that Reclamation was proposing a FY10 budget of \$20,730,310.

3. PROJECT UPDATES (see also slide presentations)

John Swett discussed FY2009 project updates which included the Backwater Habitat Creation Strategy requirements and the new approach for existing backwaters.

Backwater Site Selection – Approach

John Swett provided an overview of the current site selection process for backwaters. He indicated that to date 80 acres of backwater have been developed from scratch, 15 acres of backwater have been protected, and two backwater sites had been identified for fast tracking in the site selection process. John indicated that based on public input on the current site selection process, Reclamation is proposing a new approach. He indicated that instead of fast tracking the two backwaters, Reclamation will develop a comprehensive strategy for backwater development

along the river. This will include developing target acreage goals by Reach and State. This comprehensive strategy will then guide the site selection process for future backwaters.

Hart Mine Marsh

John provided an update on the construction of Hart Mine Marsh. He indicated that 68 acres in the South cell have been cleared and counterdredged and new outlet structures, control structures, and channels have been constructed. Construction on the North cell is scheduled for FY10.

FY09 Spring Planting

John indicated that planting was conducted at three conservation area sites; PVER, CVCA, and Cibola NWR Unit #1. He said that over 600,000 trees had been planted on 300 acres.

Farm Advisory Board

John stated that the Farm Advisory Board was created in 2006 to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between the LCR MSCP and the local farming community. Their mission is to foster cooperation, trust, community awareness, and partnerships between the LCR MSCP and the local farmers and communities. The group meets on a regular basis.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina discussed the Steering Committee schedule. She noted that the October Steering Committee was going to be held in Laughlin in conjunction with the dedication of the Big Bend Conservation Area and that a tour of Planet Ranch would be held the following day. She also stated the updated voting list was included in the packet. She requested any changes to the list be submitted to her.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

George Caan stated the LCR MSCP legislation was included in the large public lands omnibus bill and was passed as Public Law 111-11. A copy of the language is included in the handouts. The legislation authorizes the Secretary to enter in a water agreement with the states. A draft of this agreement had been completed in February 2007. An Ad Hoc group is looking at the draft to see if there are any wording changes needed.

Due to time constraints, the presentation on the Salt Cedar Beetle was postponed

6. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

George suggested the Steering Committee meetings begin at 9:00 and go until 12:00.

There are no action items.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.